

Notes from Group 3

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Neighborhood Questions:

Where you aware that many projects in the neighborhood happened as a result of neighborhood planning?

- Yes some, but not everyone aware of Neighborhood planning

Do you think we should continue to actively do neighborhood planning on Beacon Hill?

- Yes, general affirmation

After looking at the Matrix, what projects or areas of planning do you think the neighborhood should focus on this year? What projects should we focus on later? Are there new projects or areas that we should start planning for?

- Focus on Retail core, pedestrian/walk ability especially around light rail station
- Connect park with light rail with retail core equals urban village to park equals green corridor
- Support edges
- Mercer Field – uncared for, site cricket pitch, upgrade to final choice
- Schools vs. parks equals neglect (not coordinated)
- Street maintenance – sidewalks, cleaning, quality of construction
- Maintenance of retail shops along street, especially planting strips
- Back out cards from retail core
- Bike lane physically separate from auto traffic

Did you come to the Pancake breakfast on station area planning ?

- A few people came to pancake breakfast

What do you think we need to do next for station area planning?

- More work improving alleys, pavement
- Important study – what does increased density look like?
- Briefing for Neighborhood of Neighborhood design review guidelines and Multi Family Code Revisions and Commercial Code Revision, Neighborhood Commercial code revisions.

From what you know, do you think the Matrix is a valuable implementation tool for the City and the neighborhood?

- 4 said yes
- Could use better presentation of priorities, what's hot, timeline
- Annotations particularly useful to see what's accomplished, what's not.
- Worth investing a new format for matrix

Notes from Group 3

- Matrix specificity is good in words of the residents, much better than just general goals – the more detail, the better the more likely we get what we want and need with goals and rationales for rec'd projects intention behind proposal
- Its worth being flexible in our neighborhood plan need overarching goals as well as specifics

How did you find out about meeting?

- Brick email
- Postcard
- Another public meeting
- Phone calls
- List serve
- Suggest Liaisons in the schools, in translation

City Questions:

What makes North Beacon Hill the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? Convenience to downtown – Location

- Diversity – age, culturally, businesses
- Being with people like ourselves
- Need housing that works for various cultures, especially multigenerational families, apartment buildings not ideal.

Follow up: What would make it better?

- More buses on Route 36 & 60
- More robust retail, commercial core
- Beacon Av Pedestrian environment – complete street
- Sidewalks that meet universal design standards – level, well-maintained
- Overhead weather protection
- More business parking
- More shops infilling
- Saturday Farmers Market
- Green Open Space with lawn and trees in the core especially as density increased, place to hang; cool, comfortable and green
- Little pockets of green, too, especially associated as part of new development

How do think housing will change on Beacon Hill in the future and what kind of housing do you think will benefit Beacon Hill as new residents arrive? Changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Lots of vacancy on MLK
- New Holly, Learn lessons regarding what works and not
- New construction not affordable
- More people in single family homes – house mates, convert portion to apartment, duplex, etc. – share appliances
- Ability to sell a portion of one's house

Notes from Group 3

- People on fixed income need help dealing with taxes and retrofits, especially energy conserving, like replacing single pane windows
- Explore different approaches to multiple households in same residence – new living models

What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Not like inside spread of Beacon Hill Charette document
- Cleanliness and maintenance of shops and streets
- Stick to basics
- Standards could have unintended consequences of driving some businesses out due to cultural tensions – Lucky Seafood & Galaxy
- Need mediation and negotiation
- Enhance what is
- Watch Dearborn Street project – could draw business away from NBH
- Too much retail space creates empty storefronts
- Create a retail core – build out from there. Walkable, with good mix of stores serving neighborhood needs-also need more housing to support more retail. Near transit
- Need to discuss kinds of slopes and how they fit in
- Protect commercial/retail base in NC zones – don't let council or DPD change this
- Cannot concentrate all stores in one area- okay to have some strung out along Beacon – rents determine location of some
- Start Beacon Hill Merchants Association
- New comers may want to change the character of Beacon Hill – Like happened in W Seattle.

Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

Based on past planning work is the neighborhood going in the right direction?

- Watch out for (prevent) park 'n hide
- RPZ - not fair that residents have to pay for
- VA parking lot is huge and unused – no, actually it's packed!
- Public Safety very important - gangs, drugs and thugs. Graffiti not good – garbage, prostitution violence in bathrooms next to playground and school (Beacon Hill) and never any full resolution of the issue. Not enough enforcement. Gangs, carjacking, burglaries and robberies
- 23rd & Union – Seattle Police Department storefront (satellite) why not here on North Beacon Hill
- Business Improvement District to work on clean up and public safety
- Street Lighting – start with arterials, extend
- North Beacon Hill has reputation for crime – Not true! Yes it is!

Notes from Group 3

- Lots of cars – they will remain important (pg 7)– ownership conveys status for some and is a goal for many
- Safety in Light Rail Station
- Growth – North Beacon Hill will get denser
- Gangs – 1980's able to eradicate, but coordination got killed trying to mediate, get a truce together. **Need** coordination between residences and SPD to eliminate new ones.

Group 3 Summary:

Most Discussion focused on the retail core

- Enhance the character that exists. Newcomers may want something else
- Pedestrian friendliness is high priority
- NBH Merchants Association
- Includes amenities like OHWP, lighting, small open spaces,
- Plus basics: sidewalk repair, street cleaning, infilling vacant properties

Neighborhood Planning Matrix

- Lively discussion on its value – great tool with great info – balance between specificity and flexibility – form may change for user friendliness and utility.

What is great about Neighborhood?

- Location, Location, Location
- Diversity and people like ourselves

What needs Improvement?

- More busses, improved pedestrian environment, a gig green
- Open space with lawn, trees, and benches

Affordability a tough nut to crack

- New construction out of reach. Need flexible home ownership and living arrangements

Public Safety:

- Need more Seattle Police Department presence
- Concerned about safety in Light Rail Stations.